

Resolution Adopted on the 25th Day of July, 2001

A RESOLUTION REGARDING DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, HOUSING, CREDIT AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission of Columbus, Indiana (the "Commission") is charged under Sections 9.24.020 et seq. of the City of Columbus Municipal Code with the duty of promoting the public policy of the City of Columbus "to provide all persons an equal opportunity for and in education, employment, public accommodations and acquisition through purchase or rental of real property including but not limited to housing . . ."; and

WHEREAS, the Commission investigates allegations of sex discrimination and sexual harassment in education, employment, public accommodations, credit or housing, regardless of the sex or sexual orientation of the alleged victim of harassment or the alleged wrongdoer, as charged under Sections 9.24.040 and 9.24.050 of the City of Columbus Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is a member of the Indiana Hate Crimes Reporting Network, organized by the Indiana State Police and Indiana Civil Rights Commission, for the purpose of enforcing the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act and the Indiana Bias Crime Statistics Reporting Act; and

WHEREAS, the Commission, as a member of the Hate Crimes Reporting Network, is committed to collecting and reporting data about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, color, religion, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, and disability; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's mission is: "To lead Columbus in building and maintaining an inclusive community by . . . Educating the Public; (and) Challenging attitudes and systems that create barriers to equality . . ."; and

WHEREAS, the Commission, consistent with its mission statement, identifies discrimination against persons on the basis of sexual orientation as a crucial problem not only for Columbus, but for American society as a whole, and the Commission has a responsibility to lead Columbus toward the full inclusion of all citizens of Columbus in community life in the areas of education, employment, public accommodations, credit or housing, regardless of sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to express its support and solidarity with members of the Columbus community who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender who have experienced discrimination and/or bias crimes;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA THAT:**

1. The Commission hereby condemns any and all discrimination in employment, education, housing, credit and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation, and calls on the employers, educational institutions, business owners, members of the financial community, landowners, and landlords to avoid any and all discriminatory behavior on the basis of sexual orientation; and
2. The Commission hereby appoints one Human Rights Commissioner to serve as a liaison to the Columbus Area Gay Straight Alliance, for the purpose of fostering communication and better reporting of discrimination and hate crimes against members of the community on the basis of sexual orientation; and
3. The Commission hereby commits its support to the goal of full inclusion of all citizens regardless of sexual orientation in all aspects of community life, including the areas of employment, education, housing, credit and public accommodations.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this 25th day of July, 2001.

Gilbert A. Palmer
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Chairperson